

REMARKS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed May 4, 2004. With the above amendments, claims 1-20, 22-88, 90-95, and 97-110 remain pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Amendments have been made to the specification to correct minor irregularities. No new matter has been included.

In the Office Action, in paragraph 3, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 and 63 are generic and allowable. Accordingly, a previous restriction requirement was withdrawn. Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the restriction requirement, and considering and allowing the previously non-elected claims.

In the Office Action, in part 5, claims 32-46, 49-50, 52, 56 and 58-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bardy, U.S. Patent No. 5,292,338, in view of Meltzer, U.S. Patent No. 5,645,586, and Sanchez-Zambrano, U.S. Patent No. 5,895,414. In part 6, claims 47-48 were rejected in view of the same combination along with Adams, U.S. Patent No. 5,601,607. In part 7, claim 51 was rejected in view of Bardy, Meltzer, Sanchez-Zambrano, and Mower, U.S. Patent No. 5,871,506. In part 8, claim 55 was rejected in view of Bardy, Meltzer, and Sanchez-Zambrano along with reasoning that appears to be a statement of what is or would be well known in the art. Applicants would exercise their right to request that a reference be produced to verify the Examiner's statement of what is well known, however, it is believed that the above amendments have rendered these rejections moot.

In part 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 1-20, 22-31, 63-88, 90-95 and 97-110 are allowed.

In part 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 53-54 and 57 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claim 32 to incorporate the recitation from previous claim 54. Therefore, claim 32 along with dependent claims 33-52, 55, 56 and 58-62 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants have amended claims 53 and 57 to be independent claims reciting all of the limitations of their previous base claim, claim 32. Claim 54 has been amended to depend from claim 53. Therefore claims 53, 54 and 57 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 09/940,377
Amdt. dated July 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2004

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

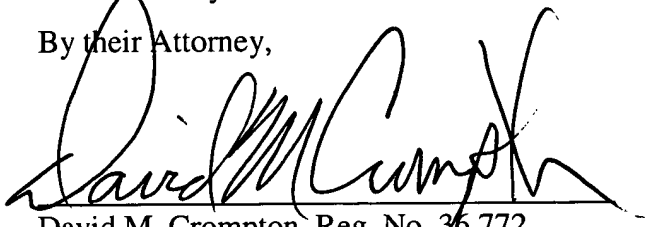
Respectfully submitted,

Gust H. Bardy et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: _____

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